

ARE THEY LYING TO US ABOUT:



ACADEMIA?



OF COURSE THEY ARE

1. Reading Passage - Wikipedia
2. Main Ideas
3. Q & A
4. Rap Singing Time
5. Jokes & Laughs Time
6. Comic Time
7. Poem Time
8. Free Thinking Time
9. Exercises Time
10. Summary / Self-Assessment
11. Graduation Certificate Time

TOPIC2: ACADEMIA?

less plan - more action

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Recognize how academia shapes and controls the production of knowledge.
- Question who owns and benefits from “intellectual authority.”
- Identify colonial and capitalist structures within research systems.
- Explore alternative, decentralized ways of learning.

Key Q

Who does academia really serve — curiosity, or hierarchy?

Reading Passage

Academy

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [Academia](#))

For other uses, see [Academy \(disambiguation\)](#).

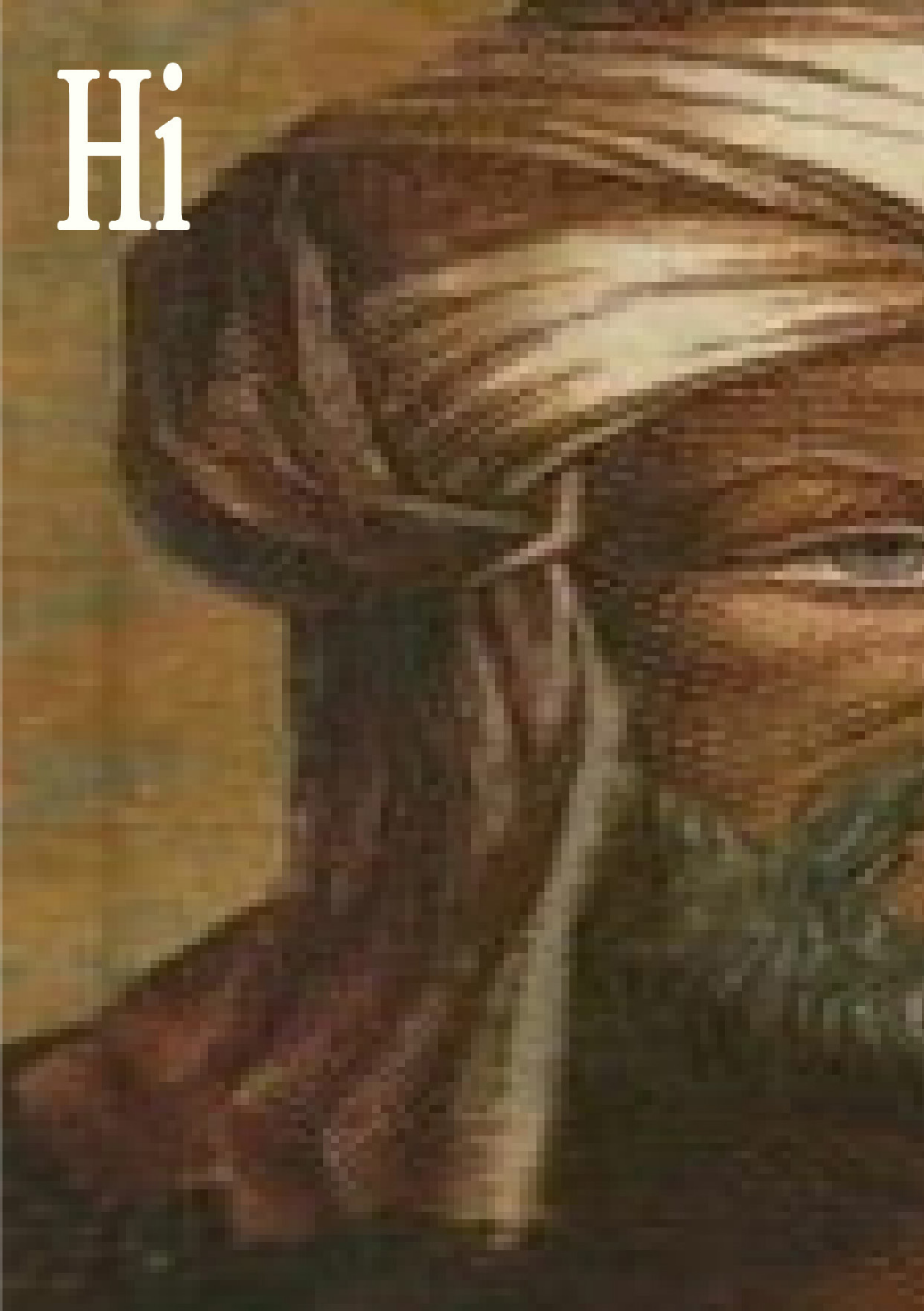
"Academia" redirects here. For other uses, see [Academia \(disambiguation\)](#).

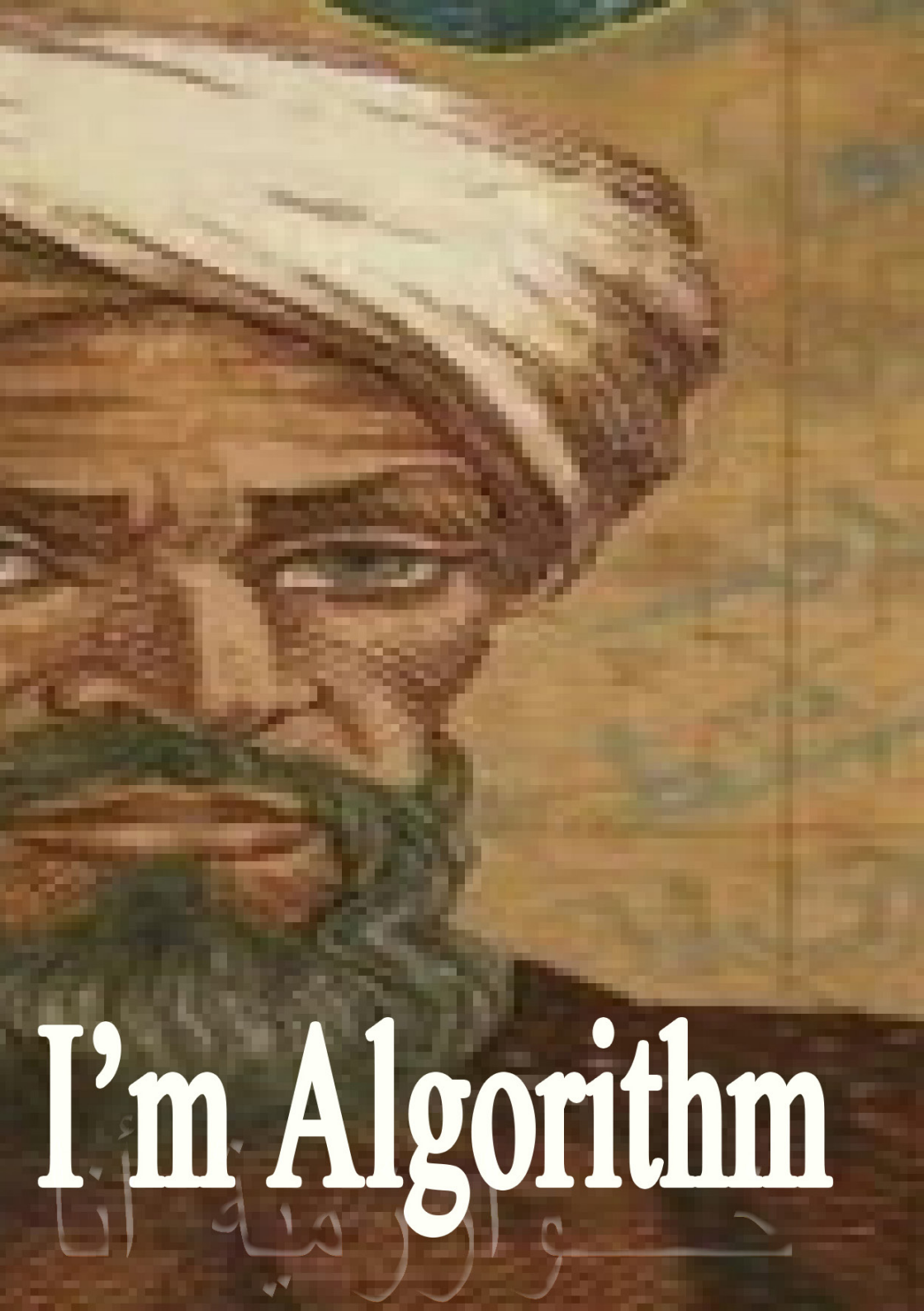
An **academy** (**Attic Greek**: Ἀκαδημία; **Koine Greek**: Ἀκαδημία) is an institution of **tertiary education**. The name traces back to **Plato**'s school of philosophy, founded c. 386 BC at **Akademia**, a **sanctuary** of **Athena**, the goddess of wisdom and skill, north of **Athens**, Greece. The **Royal Spanish Academy** defines academy as scientific, literary or artistic society established with public authority and as a teaching establishment, public or private, of a professional, artistic, technical or simply practical nature.^[1]



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Hi





I'm Algorithm

حوارية انا

talk

ذكره الأستاذ المصنف في كتابه في تاريخ العرب في القرنين الثاني والثالث للهجرة
 في كتابه في تاريخ العرب في القرنين الثاني والثالث للهجرة في كتابه في تاريخ العرب في القرنين الثاني والثالث للهجرة

[illegible][illegible]

وہابی

Main Ideas

Knowledge was meant to free, not to rank. But academia built walls higher than any border, turning curiosity into citation, and truth into hierarchy.

This zine asks who benefits from the production of knowledge — They said knowledge sets you free — but only after you've paid tuition, pledged allegiance, and cited the right prophets.

Academia became its own culx: a hierarchy where truth ascends through approval, and obedience masquerades as intellect. This zine studies the rituals of modern knowledge — the worship of hierarchy, the fear of error, and the quiet rebellion of thinking for yourself. ¹

Knowledge became a product: to publish is to exist, to cite is to survive. In this structure, curiosity often bends to bureaucracy. “Research” turns into the art of pleasing reviewers rather than exploring the unknown. Colonial roots run deep — local wisdoms, oral traditions, and non-Western methods were often rewritten, footnoted, and priced.

Discussion

List three things you've learned recently — one from internet, one from the schools, and one from life.

Ask yourself: Which one changed how you see the world?

Discuss: Why do some forms of knowledge feel more “valid” than others?

At its core, modern academia reflects the hierarchies of the world it studies. Professors become gatekeepers, students become dependents, and truth must pass through peer-reviewed rituals before being believed. The result is a cult of intellect, where belonging is earned through conformity and dissent is framed as incompetence.

*Why are we ignoring the solution
and talking about the problem?*



Q & A



Are they lying to us about academia?

Yes — it's not built to educate, it's built to rank -
Academia is not a temple of truth.



Who owns knowledge?

Those who patented curiosity and licensed truth.



Why does knowledge sound so foreign
in my own languages?

Because colonialism renamed what we already knew.



What happened to tacit, communal wisdom?

It was rewritten, footnoted, and priced.



Why do we keep researching
what we already understand?

Because the academic machine must keep
spinning to prove its relevance.



What is the colonial root of “research”?

To take local wisdom, rename it, and cite it in الإنجليزية.



Why methodology is warshiped?

Because it keeps the gate closed.
Precision becomes obedience.





Isn't science useful?

Of course. What's broken is ownership, not curiosity.



Then what could be the alternative of a classroom?

The street, the kitchen, the open pad, the shared screen. Knowledge already exists — it only needs redistribution, not production.



Why does it feel like a culx sometimes?

Because it operates like one. It builds an alternate reality where insiders believe they're chosen, smarter, engaged in a sacred mission. The group becomes its own world, and the reward is belonging.



Is that true for everyone in academia?

Not always. At the bachelor's level, it's mostly bureaucracy and competition. But at the PhD level — where tomorrow's "leaders" are trained — the culx structure shows itself: loyalty, sacrifice, and obedience dressed as intellectual rigor.



What's the core ritual of it?

Blind submission to hierarchy — the belief that truth must pass through ranked channels, peer-reviewed altars, and citation chains before it can exist.



Why is that disturbing?

Because you no longer rely on reasoning, but on authority. You are not asked to think, but to inherit the right to think — after years of sanctioned repetition.





What's wrong with that? Isn't expertise necessary?

Expertise is fine. Worship isn't. The system rewards obedience more than insight. Dissent is filtered out as "unacademic."



It feels like another capitalist workplace problem?

Exactly. Academia mirrors the corporate system it claims to critique — same competition, same scarcity logic, same ladder of recognition, same deadlines. It's capitalism with footnotes.



What's the alternative?

To decentralize learning. To see knowledge as a network, not a pyramid. To cite lived experience alongside theory. To accept that wisdom doesn't need validation — it just needs circulation.



What remains after dismantling?

Curiosity. The raw act of asking. The freedom to learn without becoming a disciple.



What's the rule?

Reference if you want, remix if you can, redistribute without guilt. Trust your brain first then then book.





Why can't I add wikipedia as a source?

You can, they say no because they don't know how to use the internet.



What are other sources?

Everyday observation, internet/ Social media-used correctly, open-source platforms, Ai-used correctly, lived reality, friends and



Can I learn from youtube?

Healyeah.



Is bro a trusted source?

Yes - prop more than Oxbord.



Why?

Because professionalism is the new religion.

Trust the amateur "again."



What can readers use?

CryptPad, Open-source design tools, PDFs shared freely, collective folders - everything valid whin using brain.



Analysis paralysis

- is a privilege problem
- is for the over-comfortable
- is the luxury of those who don't have to act
- is when thinking replaces doing
- is a rich person's stalling tactic
- is what happens when consequence is theoretical

over-analyzing is

[illegible]



Rap Singing Time

*How Can You Go - Higher education
Low*

*Higher education? You mean lower education
How low can you go for fake education?
Certificate? But I barely ate
It's the state stealing my stake off my plate.*

*Why you acting like you came up with science?
That's balakas, pure reliance
What is a moster's degree anyway?
Are you my moster? No way, not day*

*The only one that can give me a high degree
Is me, myself — that's the real key
This is degrading for true knowledge -
Being hegh might help my mind more than your college*

*(Chorus)
Tertiary education — not necessary
How low can you go? It's scary
YouTube taught me more than your faculty
Wikipedia's my university, actually*

*Trust me bro, trust me bro
Your degree's just paper, I already know
Trust me bro, trust me bro
Knowledge can't be bought, but they sell the show*



Finding the gap..
Because apparently
lived experience
doesn't count as data.



Give

Re

16

TRUST

PH

MAST

BACHE

Source Bakk

Me trying to find an article about some information
I already knew because I can't reference my brain



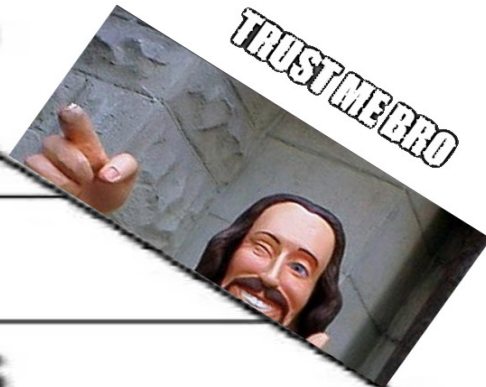
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ME BRO

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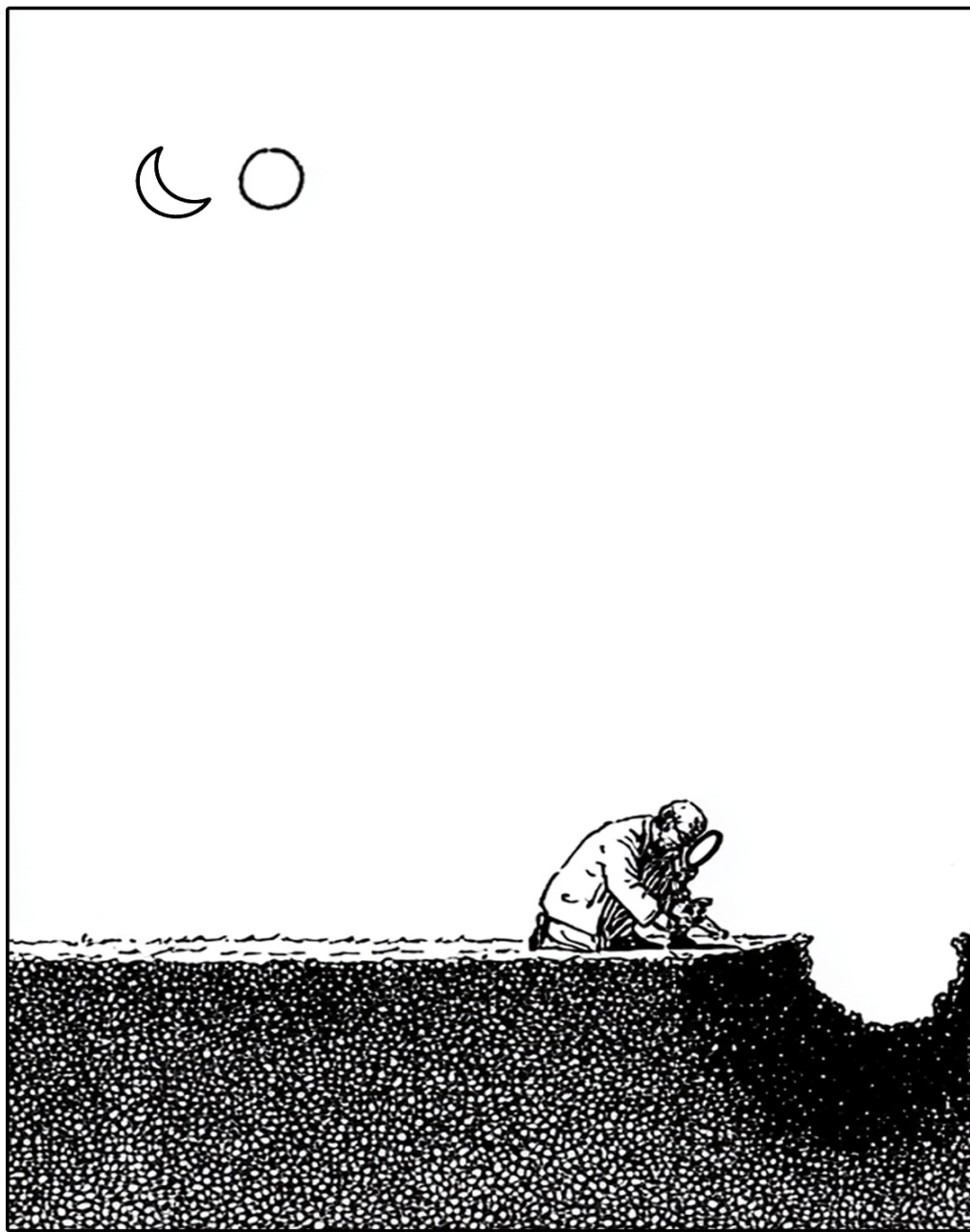


Jokes & Laughs Time Research Gap Edition

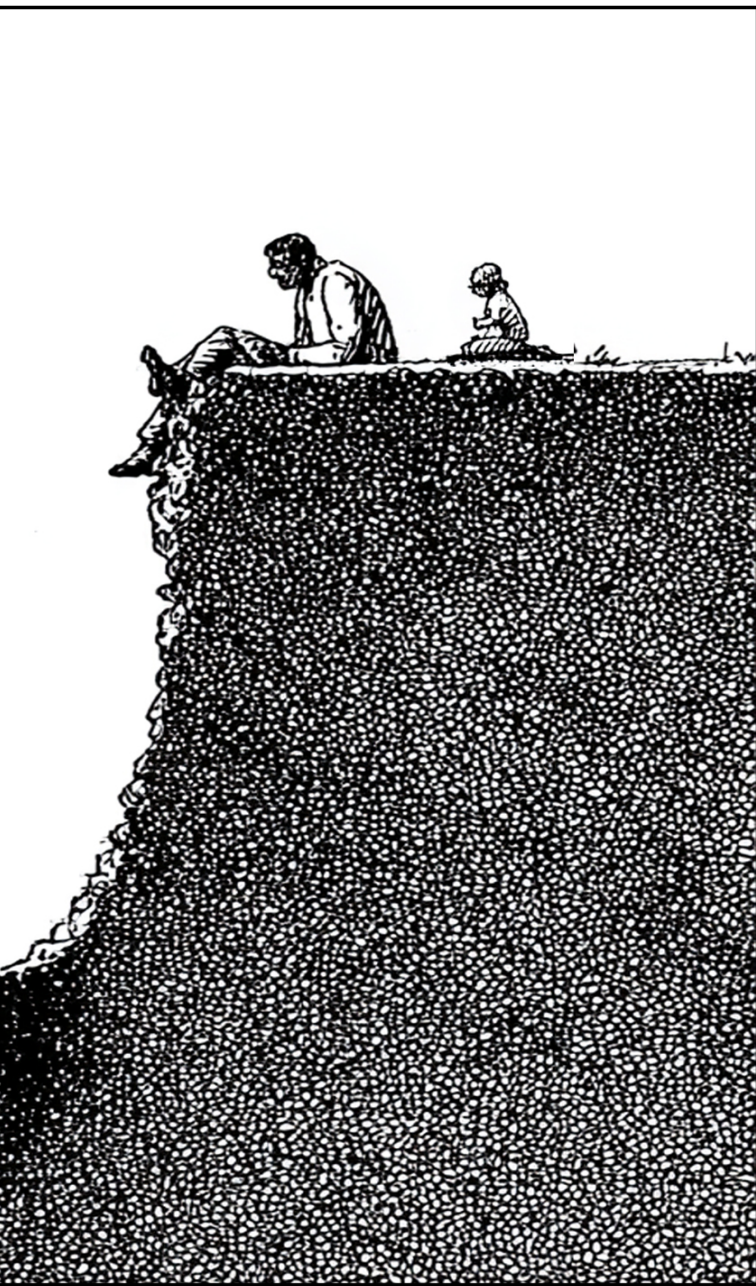
- ➔ How to do postcolonial research: Step 1: Go to community. Step 2: Ask questions. Step 3: Publish without them. Step 4: Get tenure.
- ➔ Finding the research gap: because apparently, nobody has ever thought about your extremely specific question before.
- ➔ The research gap exists because the last researcher also needed to graduate.
- ➔ Finding the research gap: Proving that something hasn't been studied by ignoring everyone who studied it in a different language.
- ➔ The gap exists because you're the first person desperate enough to look there.
- ➔ Research gap: when you pretend the Global South doesn't have journals.
- ➔ Congratulations, you found a gap. Now spend 5 years filling it with words no one will read."



- They call it a 'research gap.' I call it 'rebranding what grandma already knew.'
- Your research gap is someone else's Tuesday.
- Why can't I cite Wikipedia?
Because professors don't know how to use the internet.
- Gap found: Nobody wrote it in English yet.
- Academia: Where you pay \$50,000 to learn how to cite people who also paid \$50,000.
- Why did the academic cross the road?
To cite someone who already crossed it.
- How many academics does it take to change a lightbulb?
Four. One to change it, three to peer-review the methodology.
- Reddit solved my research problem in 4 comments. My advisor needed 4 meetings to say 'interesting.'
- My GPA says I'm smart. My bank account says I'm stupid.



"If I don't find the research gap, v



A Carl Giles style British cartoon illustration, black and white ink drawing with cross-hatching, cross-section view of a large hole in the ground filling the frame, moon and sun visible in upper left corner of sky, inside the hole are three expressive caricatured characters: first character on the flat bottom left wearing glasses and suit crouched down examining the ground with magnifying glass, second character lounging casually on the sloped wall of the hole gazing up at the sky, third character a determined woman climbing up the steep slope reaching toward the top but not quite there yet, detailed linework, vintage 1950s British editorial cartoon style, gentle social commentary, slightly exaggerated features, busy composition with clear staging --ar 16:9 --style raw --v 6

AI-generated illustration:
Midjourney + Claude Sonnet
prompt assistance

we're all doomed!"

Poem Time



Love Letter to Wikipedia

*Shoutout to you, Wikipedia
You taught the world for free
knowledge without a fee*

*They hate you 'cause you're open
while they lock the key
You are what academia should be*

*343 languages, they only speak one
They hate you cause they lost before they begun*

*Academia hates u
cause they can't control u*

*They say don't cite Wikipedia
but we know why
Cause if we did
their whole system would die*



كَأَدَّ الْمُعَلِّمُ أَنْ يَكُونَ رَسُولًا

***For the The teacher is
but one step from a prophet***

Suggested Task

What if an “expert” told you you are scientifically not supposed to feel pain after the door closed on your finger —
Would you believe them, or yourself?



قُمْ لِلْمُعَلِّمِ وَفِّهِ التَّبَجِيلَا

*Stand for the teacher
and give him due reverence*



X stealing
in real life and

lw

all resources in thought

مصادر طبيعية ومصادر فكرية ومصادر

Free Thinking Time

Talk with yourself or a friend about these claims:

- ➔ The gap isn't missing knowledge. It's missing citations in the right language by the right people.
- ➔ Spent 4 years researching something my uncle explained to me in 10 minutes at dinner."
- ➔ The Citation Reversal: Imagine a world where academic papers must cite street vendors, grandmothers, and YouTube tutorials before they can cite other academics. How would knowledge production change? What would become "valid"?
- ➔ There's no such thing as 'higher education.' It's called tertiary — and it's not necessary for anything, especially finding a job.
- ➔ I'm not trusting the World Bank's definition of education. I only trust the lies in my secondary school curriculum.
- ➔ Professors need to accept: YouTube, Reddit, Wikipedia — a even competing faculties.
- ➔ Research papers are just expensive blog posts with a superiority complex.

You're trapped in a cave. You can access only one of these. What do you choose?

choose your fighter





Exercises Time

1 Fill in the blanks from the words in the box:

tertiary	redistribution	production	English	Tuesday
----------	----------------	------------	---------	---------

- 1) There's no such thing as "higher education" — it's called
- 2) Knowledge already exists — it only needs, not
- 3) Colonialism renamed what we already knew and cited it in
- 4) Academics research gap is someone else's

2 Are the sentences True or False:

True False

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) It is ethical to study a community and publish findings in a language they cannot read. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2) Academia was built to educate people, not to rank them. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3) "Higher education" is a recent invention, becoming widespread only in the 1960s. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4) YouTube can be a valid source of learning. | ☐ | ☐ |

3 Match sentence:

Research papers aren't
real papers. They're

amateur

They worship
methodology because

religion

Professionalism
is the new

Expensive
blog posts

Trust again the

it keeps the
gate closed



<; Suggested Life Hack ;>

Strategic Spelling Mistakes - make spelling mistakes
when typing. Confuse the algorithms tracking you.

Summary / Self-Assessment

Academia wasn't built to educate — it was built to rank. Knowledge became currency. Colonialism renamed local wisdom and cited it in English. Truth must pass through hierarchies before it can exist. You're not asked to think, but to inherit the right to think after years of obedience.

There's no "higher education" — it's tertiary, and it's not necessary. Academia mirrors capitalism: same competition, same scarcity, same ladders.

What's broken isn't curiosity — it's ownership. Knowledge already exists; it needs redistribution, not production. Real education begins when learning stops asking for permission. What remains? Curiosity. The raw act of asking. The freedom to learn without becoming a disciple.

TRUST THE AMATEUR AGAIN.

We tried to fix the planet with more reports , more data , and more certifications – until we realized that even knowledge itself had been colonized .

worship of hierarchy
fear of error
quiet rebellion of thinking for yourself.



UNIVERSITY OF [REDACTED]



THIS is to certify that it appears by the Register of the Ancient House of Congregation of Doctors and Regent Masters of the University of [REDACTED] that

.....
after having satisfied all the conditions prescribed in that respect by the Statutes of the University, was on 27 April 2002 duly admitted to the Degree of

DOCTOR OF

University Offices,
[REDACTED]

2 May 2002



[REDACTED]
Registrar
[Signature]

the world is changing

This series includes:

- Sustainability?
- Academia?
- Borders?
- Mental Health?
- Religion?
- Global South?

That
Joke
Isn't
Funny
Any
more
xd!!

YES
فأجل

6 ZINES